

**CLAIMS.**

1. A lifting device comprising handle means and at least  
5 two pivotably connected frame members adapted to pivot  
between a first, open, configuration and a second,  
closed, configuration, wherein at least a portion of  
inner walls of the at least two frame members form a  
gripping surface, which gripping surface is adapted to  
10 lie substantially parallel with side walls of an  
article to be lifted when in the second, closed,  
configuration.
2. A lifting device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
15 lifting device comprises two frame members which are  
pivotably connected at two points.
3. A lifting device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the two  
20 pivot points are substantially coaxial.
4. A lifting device as claimed in any preceding claim,  
wherein the frame members are shaped such that they  
define a substantially oval shaped aperture when in the  
first, open, configuration.
- 25 5. A lifting device as claimed in any preceding claim,  
wherein the frame members are shaped such that when in  
the second, closed, position they define a  
substantially circular shaped aperture.
- 30 6. A lifting device as claimed in any of claims 2 to 5,  
wherein the handle means comprises two handles each of  
which is attached to one of the two frame members and

situated substantially opposite each other about the device.

7. A lifting device as claimed in any preceding claim,  
5 wherein the gripping surface defines a portion of an oval when in the first, open, configuration.

8. A lifting device as claimed in any preceding claim,  
10 wherein the gripping surface defines a portion of a circle when in a second, closed configuration.

9. A lifting device as claimed in any preceding claim,  
wherein the gripping surface comprises gripping means.

15 10. A lifting device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the gripping means comprises a friction increasing material.

11. A lifting device as claimed in either of claim 9 or  
20 claim 10, wherein the gripping means comprises rubber or the like.

12. A lifting device as claimed in any preceding claim,  
25 wherein the gripping surface comprises retaining means adapted to retain the gripping means thereon.

13. A lifting device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the retaining means comprise a lip which preferably extends along a lower edge of the gripping surface.

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14. A lifting device as claimed in any preceding claim,  
wherein the frame members each comprise a first portion, proximal to the pivots, which first portions

preferably, when in the first, open, configuration, extend away from the pivots at substantially 180° to each other.

5 15. A lifting device as claimed in claim 14, wherein when in the first, open, configuration the first portions of the frame members are substantially coplanar.

10 16. A lifting device as claimed in either of claim 14 or claim 15, wherein a second portion of each frame member extends away from an end of the first portion of each frame member distal to the pivots.

15 17. A lifting device as claimed in claim 16, wherein when in the second, closed, configuration, the second portions of the frame members substantially coplanar.

20 18. A lifting device as claimed in either of claim 16 or claim 17, wherein the second portion incorporates the gripping surface.

25 19. A lifting device as claimed in any of claims 16 to 18, wherein the second portion extends away from the first portion at a downwardly sloping angle thereto.

20. A lifting device as claimed in any of claims 16 to 19, wherein the handle means extend away from the second portion of the frame members at a downwardly sloping angle thereto.

30 21. A lifting device comprising handle means and at least two frame members being connected by at least one pivot and adapted to pivot between a first, open,

configuration and a second, closed, configuration, the frame members each comprising a first portion, proximal to the at least one pivot, and a second portion extending away from an end of the first portion distal to the at least one pivot, which first portions, when in the first, open, configuration are substantially coplanar and which second portions, when in the second, closed, configuration are substantially coplanar.

22. A compressed gas storage cylinder vertical lifting device comprising two substantially half round or oval frames having each a rubber type insert, the said frames having an underside and a top, the said frames being hinged to produce, in use, grip on a cylinder when the frames are moved towards each other in upwards direction, said device comprising a lifting member fixed to each of the said frames allowing the cylinder to be lifted, the said rubber type insert being secured to the frames and resting on a shoulder provided on the underside of each said frames.

23. A lifting device substantially as hereinbefore described and with reference to the accompanying drawings.